

## Message Text

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15

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 /089 R

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C-JDOBBINS(SUBS)

EUR/P:WGEHRON

S/S-MR. ORTIZ

----- 094643

P R 292242Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS STATE 022620

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EAIR, CA, CU

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: CANADA-CUBA AIR SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY Q AND A'S WERE PREPARED FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT'S PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 29. ONCE BRIEFING IS  
HELD WE WILL REPORT ACTUAL EXCHANGE, IF ANY.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. REACTION TO THE AIR CANADA ANNOUNCE-  
MENT TODAY THAT REGULAR FLIGHTS WILL BEGIN BETWEEN CANADA  
AND CUBA ON MAY 1?

A: WE HAVE KNOWN OF THE AIR AGREEMENT FOR SOME TIME. THE  
AGREEMENT WAS ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME IT WAS SIGNED IN OTTAWA  
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LAST SEPTEMBER. IT PROVIDES FOR DIRECT FLIGHTS BETWEEN THE

TWO COUNTRIES, SO NO STOPS IN THE U.S. ARE INVOLVED.

Q: IS THE GOVERNMENT GOING TO ALLOW CUBAN PLANES TO OVER-FLY UNITED STATES TERRITORY?

A: THE CUBANS MUST APPLY FOR OVERFLIGHT PERMISSION. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED ANY REQUEST.

Q: IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT U.S.-ORIGIN DC-8 AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED BY CANADA TO CUBA TO CARRY OUT THESE FLIGHTS. HOW DOES THE U.S. FEEL ABOUT THIS?

A: SEVERAL MONTHS AGO WE WERE INFORMED BY CANADA OF ITS INTENTION TO LEASE U.S.-ORIGIN DC-8 AIRCRAFT TO CUBA TO IMPLEMENT THE AIR AGREEMENT AND WE INFORMED THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT THAT WE HAD NO OBJECTION.

Q: COULDN'T THESE AIRPLANES BE USED IN SUPPORT OF CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA?

A: WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS COVERING THE TRANSFER RESTRICT USE OF THE AIRCRAFT TO SPECIFIED POINTS AND FOR CIVILIAN PURPOSES ONLY. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JAN 1976  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, ETRD, EAIR, CA, CU  
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